

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11 and 26 have been amended and claims 2 and 30 – 40 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 3 – 29 are currently pending. The election of Group I, claims 1 – 29 is hereby affirmed. The allowability of claims 2 – 7 is hereby acknowledged. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8 – 20, 22 – 26 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Shastri (U.S. Patent No. 5,837,752) in view of Hasegawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,380,772) or Kliment (U.S. Patent 3,925,895). Claims 1, 8, 9, 13 – 21, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Sawhney (U.S. Patent No. 5,900,245) in view of Hench (U.S. Patent No. 6,051,247) or Shastri (U.S. Patent No. 5,837,752) and/or Anderson et al (The Kinetics of Bioactive Ceramics, 1990, ISCM, pp.46 – end of article). In response to the rejections, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2 therein. The claims now appear in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1 and 3 – 29 specify patentable subject matter and are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. The Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' attorney at the number listed below if it will advance the prosecution of this case. If necessary, the Examiner is authorized to charge further fees necessary to advance the prosecution in this case from Deposit Account No. 500718.

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Respectfully submitted,



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